***Psalm 89:14-16 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face. 15Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O Lord, in the light of Your countenance. 16In Your name they rejoice all day long, And in Your righteousness they are exalted.***

This morning, we celebrate our graduates. Graduation is a blessed milestone, one to be savored and enjoyed, celebrated by both graduate and those that love the graduate. During the journey to graduation, there has been much learning and many tests. As time passes, we may recall the tests, but it’s the learning that remains. In the end, tests are just checkpoints for the learning. And so it is in our walk with God, through Christ Jesus. His tests are checkpoints for our learning – not to prove His Truth, but to allow us to check our grasp of the material. John 14:26 - *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name. He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

Many in life live to beat the test. I had a friend years ago who’d stop caffeine and salt before his doctors appointment. “So when he tests my blood pressure it’s good.” The rest of the year he ate salt and drank caffeine. He wanted to beat the test, but the daily high blood pressure told on him. The test wasn’t the point, but what the test could teach. Destruction comes day on day, not just on test day.

Graduates, and beloved, destruction comes day on day. Not just on test day. God tests to reveal to us where our life is off course, where the damage is being done. Low blood sugar on doctor day doesn’t negate high blood sugar every other day. A clear breathalyzer at the police station doesn’t negate the damage of alcohol at home. Nothing is hidden from the Almighty. Our goal is learning. John 8:31-32 *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.* How do we come to know something? We learn. Our teacher, the Holy Spirit, our textbook, the Holy Bible, teaches us of the Only Truth, Jesus. When He sets us free, we are free indeed.

Verse 14 of our scripture says *Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.* Let’s think on that. Righteousness and Justice are the habitation, the basis of God’s Kingdom. Mercy and truth go before His face. His immovable throne is built on perfect justice and judgement, while mercy and truth surround it. Graduates, build everything in your life on righteousness and justice, taught by the Spirit, written in the Bible, found in Jesus, rooted in God. And never let mercy, kindness, compassion, and truth out of your sight.

Verse 15 - *Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O Lord, in the light of Your countenance.* Happy are the people who know the joy of praising God, who know what it’s like to be among the joy-filled people of God. Those that know God walk in the light of His face, His countenance. Revelation 1:16 *He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.* Graduates, when we walk in the Truth of Jesus, our path is always bright, like a path lit by the sun shining bright. Stay in connection with God’s people walking in God’s way. God has a purpose, a path for you. The world leads us to a cliff. God leads us to a peaceful place at the end of the path. Follow Him in Peace.

Verse 16 *In Your name they rejoice all day long, And in Your righteousness they are exalted.* In the true knowledge of God, they rejoice – meaning they are so joyful they spin, like a jubilant child dancing in the presence of her parents. How do we get this knowledge? The Holy Spirit, our teacher, the Holy Bible our textbook. How are we righteous before God? 2 Cor 5:21 *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* When we believe in Jesus, our sin is exchanged for His righteousness. 1 Cor 1:30-31 *But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God and righteousness and sanctification and redemption that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”* Graduates, and beloved, righteousness is found in the Truth, Jesus Christ, alone. The world would have us seek and chase and become discouraged and lost. God says - *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

Almost everyone has a favorite subject to study, a class we never mind attending, a teacher that we love for years after the tests have ended. Let’s make God our favorite study, Christ the class we never mind attending, the Holy Spirit our favorite teacher we can never forget. Seek Him first and everything else in this fading life will fall into place.